

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **TOTSUKA, Shigeki**

Serial No.: **09/826,359**

Filed: **April 5, 2001**

Group Art Unit: **2834**

Examiner: **CUEVAS, Pedro J.**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 3990

For: **STEPPING MOTOR AND DRIVING APPARATUS**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
DEC 31 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
800
December 26, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$ 180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

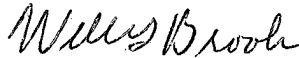
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

12/27/2002 SDENBOR1 00000103 09826359
01 FC:1806 180.00 DP

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340. Two copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla

Atty. Docket No. **010496**
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449
References (3)
Copy of Australian Patent Office Communication & Search Report
Check for \$ 180.00